CLAIMS

- 1. An advertisement sales and management system comprising:
- 5 data storage means, data retrieval means and data processing means

database means

and a number of workstations,

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one or more of the workstations being adapted to perform one or more of the tasks selected from the group consisting of:

entering advertisement orders into the database means,

- 15 entering advertisement-associated data into the database means and retrieving advertisement-associated data from the database means, entering customer-associated data into the database means and retrieving customerassociated data from the database means,
- 20 the database means and data processing means being adapted to at least store and manage data relating to

an advertisement customer,

an advertisement order comprising data related to an advertisement or a group of related

- 25 advertisements, including
 - a medium or media in which the advertisement or individual advertisement of the group of related advertisements is/are to be published, and
 - a schedule or schedules defining insertions of the respective advertisements in respective media to control publication of the respective advertisements.
- 30 contents of respective advertisements, presentation elements of respective advertisements,

the advertisement sales and management system being adapted to generate data defining the advertisement or the groups of related advertisements on the basis of entered order data.

the advertisement sales and management system thereby constituting a single system supporting entry, sale and management of several related advertisements in several media based on entry of a single advertisement order.

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- 2. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the data relating to the medium or media comprise data related to both printed media and electronic media.
- 3. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the database means is adapted to store and manage, based on the single order, one or several versions of an advertisement, the version of an advertisement being identical to or different from other versions of the advertisement as published in the other insertions thereof according to the schedule or schedules defining insertions of the advertisement.

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4. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the database means and the data processing means are adapted to store and manage substantially each insertion of an advertisement through a material data level that associates a material with substantially each insertion of the advertisement, the material

20 comprising:

contents of the insertion of the advertisement presentation elements of the insertion of the advertisement,

the material defining the visual and/or audible appearance of the advertisement when published in a media.

5. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the contents of the advertisement comprise content elements selected from the group consisting of:

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graphical information elements such as text or logos; hyperlinks, photos, artwork, sounds, videos, animations.

- 6. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the presentation elements of the advertisement comprise presentation elements selected from the group consisting of:
- 5 a size of the advertisement in a printed medium, typeface or font, font size, co-ordinates for placement of text, relative positions between graphical information elements, colour of graphical information elements or parts thereof, borders, shading, three-dimensional effects.
- 7. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the media comprise media selected from the group consisting of:
- newspapers, magazines, paper or electronic books, electronic newspapers, electronic magazines, news streamers, inserts, onserts, posters, running message displays, newsbanners, TV, movies, data carriers such as CD ROMs, DVD discs, magnetic discs, DAT tapes; videos, radio, stationary telephones, mobile (cellular) telephones, teletext, public data networks including the Internet.
- 8. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein data relating to schedules for a particular advertisement comprise or relate to data defining one or several insertions of the advertisement in each of the respective media, the physical presentation of the advertisement of each insertion being established on the basis of the data in the database relating to contents and the presentation elements of the advertisement.

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- 9. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 4, wherein a number of attributes are associated with substantially each insertion of an advertisement and stored in the database means.
- 30 the attributes being selected from the group consisting of:

title of the specific species of the medium, zone of the specific species of the medium, section/classification of the specific species of the medium, catch line, author (created by), creation time, creation location, the version of the advertisement as established by its

material, publication start time, publication end time, IP-address, time- and/or eventrelated data for the publication of the insertion of the advertisement

10. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the
5 database means and the data processing means are adapted to store and determine the
price of the advertisement order based on advertisement price data selected from the
group consisting of:

the material of the advertisement, the attributes associated with substantially each insertion of the advertisement, the data relating to schedule or schedules, media data, the data relating to the advertisement customer, an advertisement order structure,

thus enabling calculation of the price of an order when the order has been fully defined.

- 15 11. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 10, wherein price data are relatable to advertisement data comprising customer contract or contracts data stored in the database, thus enabling the price calculation to be based on customer price agreements.
- 20 12. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 10, wherein calculation and display of the price of an order is performed dynamically during establishment of the order, a price displayed on the display of a workstation reflecting the aspects of the order which have been defined or which are being defined.
- 25 13. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, further comprising a WYSIWYG editor adapted to support entering or editing contents and/or presentation elements of the advertisements, the WYSIWYG editor being adapted to display, on a screen of at least one workstation of the system, the contents and presentation elements in the graphical representation defined by the data.

14. A advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, furthermore comprising data transfer means for communicating advertisement data from the database to a file, file system or database means associated with an advertisement planning and/or

production system.

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15. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 14, wherein the data transfer means is selected from the group consisting of:

address pointers, serial or parallel databusses, public telephone networks, LANs, WANs.

5 public networks including the Internet.

- 16. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 1, wherein the data stored and managed by the database means comprise user interface data defining a graphical user interface and/or other function parameters of an individual workstation or individual workstations, and/or the data model used from an individual workstation or individual workstations in the computer system.
- 17. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 16, wherein the user interface data are related to a target media for the advertisement or advertisements
 15 being sold or managed, and/or to a task of a workstation operator, and/or access rights of the operator.
- 18. An advertisement sales and management system according to claim 16, which enables adaptation of the graphical user interface and/or other function parameters of the individual workstation(s) and/or the data model without modifying binary code of the computer system.
- 19. A method of managing advertisements in an advertisement sales and management system which comprises: data storage means, data retrieval means, data processing
 25 means and database means and a number of workstations;

the method comprising:

performing from one or more of the workstations one or more of the tasks selected from 30 the group consisting of:

entering advertisement orders into the database means, entering advertisement-associated data into the database means and retrieving advertisement-associated data from the database means,

entering customer-associated data into the database means and retrieving customer-associated data from the database means.

managing and storing by the data processing means and the database means, data 5 relating to:

an advertisement customer,

- an advertisement order comprising data related to an advertisement or a group of related advertisements, including
- 10 a medium or media in which the advertisement or individual advertisement of the group of related advertisements is/are to be published, and a schedule or schedules defining insertions of the respective advertisements in respective media to control publication of the respective advertisements, contents of respective advertisements,
- 15 presentation elements of respective advertisements,
 - generating data defining the advertisement or the group of related advertisements based of entered order data in the advertisement sales and management system,
- 20 the method thereby supporting entry, sale and management of several related advertisements in several media based on entering a single advertisement order.
 - 20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the data relating to the medium or media in which the advertisement or individual advertisement of the group of related
- advertisements is/are to be published comprise data related to both printed media and electronic media.
- 21. A method according to claim 19, wherein the method further comprises storing and managing one or several versions of the advertisement, the version of an advertisement
 30 being identical to or different from other versions of the advertisement as published in the other insertions thereof according to the schedule or schedules defining insertions of the advertisement.

22. A method according to claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the step of associating a material with substantially each insertion of the advertisement, the material comprising:

contents of the insertion of the advertisement

5 presentation elements of the insertion of the advertisement,

thereby storing and managing substantially each insertion of an advertisement through a material data level provided by the association between the material and the substantially each insertion of the advertisement.

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the material defining the visual and/or audible appearance of the advertisement when published in a media.

23. A method according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

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retrieving contents and/or presentation elements associated with a previously stored insertion of the advertisement from the database means,

creating a version or versions of the previously stored advertisement by editing the retrieved contents and/or presentation elements, and

storing the version or versions of the advertisement in the database means as corresponding material or materials.

25 24. A method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

displaying and editing in a WYSIWYG editor, on a screen of at least one workstation, the retrieved contents and/or presentation elements associated with the previously stored version of the advertisement.

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